

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
AND CONSERVATION**

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HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1601**DECISION MEMO  
ACTIONS OF A SPECIAL NATURE**

Riverside Water and Sewer District City Annexation

April 2022

Riverside Water and Sewer District

Administrative

City of Bozeman

Gallatin County

**PURPOSE AND NEED**

The Riverside W&SD provides water and sewer service to the 320 residents and the Riverside Country Club. The existing wastewater treatment system was constructed in the 1970's and remains in operation to this day.

The District is under Administrative Order on Consent to address the wastewater treatment system consisting of aerated lagoons, effluent storage, and filtration, followed by irrigation on the Riverside Country Club golf course. The system has never actually irrigated, and the holding pond leaks all the effluent into the ground. This equates to an unauthorized and un-permitted discharge to groundwater.

The District has evaluated multiple options for replacement of the treatment system. In lieu of constructing and operating a new treatment facility, the District is pursuing the preferred alternative of connecting to the City of Bozeman and annexing the District into the City. The physical infrastructure would include a new sewer lift station and approximately 4,000 lineal feet of 6-inch sewer force main to deliver the wastewater to near the entry point into the City's Water Resource Recovery Facility.

Following a successful petition to annex into the City of Bozeman, the City will assume management of the project and oversee engineering and construction management through their contracted engineer. The City will create a Special Improvement District to fund the physical improvements. The District will need other funds to pay for decommissioning of the existing treatment system, and payment of impact fees for wastewater treatment and emergency services.

The purpose of this application is to procure funds for payment of the City wastewater treatment and emergency services impact fees.

**Explanation of the decision(s) that must be made regarding the proposed action (i.e. approve grant or loan and provide funding):**

DNRC will approve the loan to provide funding for the Riverside Water and Sewer District City Annexation Project.

DNRC is not required to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for actions that qualify for a CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (ARM 36.17.614) or justified by a PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW; or are ACTIONS OF A SPECIAL NATURE (ARM 36.2.523(5)); or are EMERGENCIES (ARM 36.2.539). These actions are subject to review for EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES that would require an EA or an EIS.

### **ACTIONS OF SPECIAL NATURE (ARM 36.2.523)**

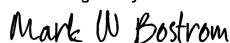
- ☒ Administrative actions: routine, clerical or similar functions of a department, including but not limited to administrative procurement, contracts for consulting services, and personnel actions.
- ☐ Minor repairs, operations, or maintenance of existing equipment or facilities.
- ☐ Investigation and enforcement: data collection, inspection of facilities or enforcement of environmental standards.
- ☐ Ministerial actions: actions in which the agency exercises no discretion, but rather acts upon a given state of facts in a prescribed manner.
- ☐ Actions that are primarily social or economic in nature and that do not otherwise affect the human environment.

### **CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION/PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW**

- ☐ Categorical Exclusion (CE) refers to a type of action which does not individually, collectively, or cumulatively require an EA or EIS, as determined by rulemaking or programmatic review adopted by the agency, unless extraordinary circumstances, as defined by rulemaking or programmatic review, occur. This project qualifies under ARM 36.17.614 CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS.
- ☐ Programmatic review means an analysis (EIS or EA) of the impacts on the quality of the human environment of related actions, programs, or policies. DNRC – CARDD does not have any programmatic reviews completed at the time of this template.

The project listed above meets the definition of Actions of a Special Nature, Categorical Exclusion or Programmatic Review including specified conditions and Extraordinary Circumstances.

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<b>Approved By:</b>	<b>Name:</b> Mark Bostrom <b>Title:</b> CARD Division Administrator	
<b>Signature:</b>	 <small>DocuSigned by: Mark W Bostrom</small>	<b>Date:</b> 2/22/2022   2:25:01 PM MST

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